<u>Trend Study 16B-15-99</u>

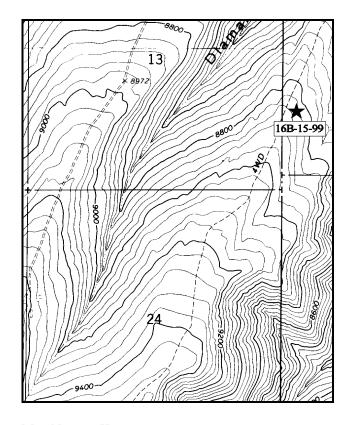
Study site name: <u>Ford Ridge</u>. Range type: <u>Big Sagebrush - Grass</u>.

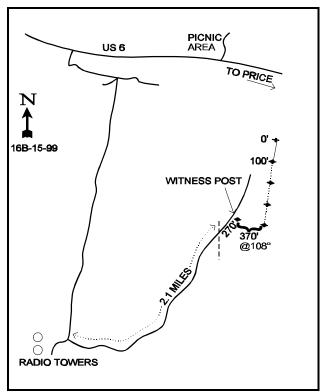
Compass bearing: frequency baseline 198°M.

Footmark (first frame placement) <u>5</u> feet, footmarks (frequency belts) line 1 (11 & 95ft), line 2 (34ft), line 3 (59ft), line 4 (71ft).

LOCATION DESCRIPTION

Take US 6 north from Price to the top of Price Canyon. About one mile NW of the picnic area, turn left towards Bristlecone BSA camp and the radio towers. Go 0.7 miles to a 3-way fork. Take the center road and go up the ridge 5.15 miles. Below the towers, turn left onto a rough road. Follow this road 2.1 miles to a fence. Continue 100 yards past the fence to a witness post on the right side of the road. From the witness post, walk approximately 125 yards (74 paces) east to the 400 foot stake. The first baseline stake, a 12" fencepost marked with browse tag #9014, is 400 feet to the north.





Map Name: Kyune

Township 12S, Range 9E, Section 18

Diagrammatic Sketch

UTM 4403236.223 N, 503161.821 E

DISCUSSION

Trend Study No. 16B-15 (30-1)

This study on Ford Ridge was established to monitor what was thought to be year-round elk range. Deer use is limited in most winters with an elevation of 8,700 feet. After 3 readings, this site will be discontinued in the future due to little or no use by big game. Pellet group transect data in 1999 indicate less than 1 deer day use/acre (2 ddu/ha) and just over 1 elk day use/acre (3 edu/ha). The open sage/grass ridge tops are windswept in winter, while the steep side hills bare off early, providing open country for winter elk use. Aspen stands in the draws and brushy east-facing slopes provide cover. The area is a checkerboard of private and BLM land used mainly for spring-to-fall cattle grazing. The study is located near the ridgeline with a northeast aspect and a slope of about 5%.

The soil is a moderately deep, clay texture with a slightly alkaline pH (7.4). Rock is fairly uniformly distributed throughout the profile as indicated by the estimated stoniness index. Erosion potential in the area is moderate to high as evidenced by washed-out roads and trails. Directly on the site, there is noticeable soil loss in the interspaces between shrubs. Percent bare ground increased in 1994, remaining nearly the same in 1999. Vegetation and litter cover both decreased in 1999, which could result in increased erosion in the future.

Mountain big sagebrush is the dominant browse providing 66% of the browse cover in 1999. During the 1988 reading, there were an estimated 11,066 sagebrush/acre, 89% of which were young plants. Seedling sagebrush numbered nearly 11,000 per acre indicating an expanding population. Since then the population has remained fairly stable with 10,500 plants/acre counted in 1994, and 11,440 in 1999. The population has become more mature with 86% and 79% of the population respectively consisting of mature plants in 1994 and 1999. Young plants make up only 13% and 7% of the population respectively in 1994 and 1999. The baseline was extended from 100 to 400 feet prior to reading in 1994. This larger sample better estimates browse densities which have clumped and/or discontinuous distributions, and would account for much of the changes in age class distribution of this big sagebrush population. Percent decadence increased from 2% in 1988 and 1994, to 14% in 1999. Fifty-nine percent of the decadent plants were classified as dying in 1999 which would point to a slightly declining population that may be thinning out. Vigor is mostly good and use light, with the majority of the mature plants showing good seed production in 1999. Twenty-two percent of the young plants encountered in 1988, displayed reduced vigor. Currently, all young plants display good vigor. Other shrubs present include snowberry, mountain low rabbitbrush, and a few serviceberry.

Herbaceous forage is an important element of this range. As with much of the Wasatch Plateau, the dominant grass species is Salina wildrye or bullgrass. Muttongrass is a preferred but less common species. Although large bunch grasses appear to dominate the site, there is still room for a variety of forbs. Seventeen species were encountered on the study area in 1994, and 21 in 1999. Forbs are an important component of deer and elk spring and summer diets, and preferred species like penstemon, milkvetches, and paintbrushes are important. Current use of herbaceous plants is light.

1994 TREND ASSESSMENT

Ground cover characteristics are similar to those of 1988. Relative percent cover of bareground has gone up slightly (22% to 26%) and litter has declined due to drought from 49% to 33%. However, vegetation and litter cover are abundant enough to stabilize the soil. Trend for soil is stable. The browse trend is stable currently, but the population has become increasingly mature (85%). Reproductive potential (proportion of young) has declined considerably due in large part to the dry conditions of the past several years. Vigor has improved and percent decadence is very low. Herbaceous trend is slightly down due to the drought. Four of the five perennial grasses on the site have declined significantly in their sum of nested frequency values. Several perennial forb species have also shown significant declines in their sum of nested frequency values.

TREND ASSESSMENT

<u>soil</u> - stable <u>browse</u> - stable

herbaceous understory - slightly down

1999 TREND ASSESSMENT

Trend for soil is down due to decreases in both vegetation and litter cover. Bare ground remains high at 30%, and noticeable soil loss is occurring in the interspaces between shrubs. Trend for the key browse, mountain big sagebrush, is slightly down. Percent decadency increased from 2% to 14%, and the proportion of decadent plants classified as dying is high at 59%. With low recruitment and biotic potential, this species appears to be declining in the future. Trend for the herbaceous component is slightly up. The sum of nested frequency for perennial species increased in 1999, following a large decrease in 1994 due to drought. Very few annuals are present at this elevation.

TREND ASSESSMENT

soil - down

<u>browse</u> - slightly down for the key species, mountain big sagebrush herbaceous understory - slightly up

HERBACEOUS TRENDS --

Herd unit 16B, Study no: 15

T	Species	Nested	Freque	ncy	Quadra	t Freque	ency	Ave	_
y p e		'88	'94	'99	'88	'94	'99	1 94	1 70 1 99
G	Agropyron spicatum	_b 25	_a 2	_c 48	12	1	19	.00	.46
G	Carex spp.	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	.03
G	Elymus salina	_b 299	_b 296	_a 262	91	93	91	14.07	5.50
G	Festuca ovina	1	3	6	1	1	3	.00	.06
G	Poa fendleriana	117	84	92	54	42	43	.93	.62
G	Poa pratensis	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	.00
G	Stipa spp.	15	6	8	5	3	4	.06	.07
To	otal for Annual Grasses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Т	otal for Perennial Grasses	457	391	421	163	140	162	15.08	6.75
Т	otal for Grasses	457	391	421	163	140	162	15.08	6.75
F	Achillea millefolium	56	46	56	22	20	24	.25	.93
F	Antennaria rosea	a ⁻	a-	84	-	-	4	-	.21
F	Androsace septentrionalis (a)	-	1	1	-	1	1	.00	.00
F	Antennaria spp.	_b 24	₆ 9	a ⁻	10	4	-	.44	-
F	Arabis spp.	_b 9	a ⁻	_{ab} 2	4	-	1	-	.00
F	Astragalus argophyllus	_b 22	a ⁻	a a	11	-	-	-	-
F	Astragalus convallarius	12	19	14	5	8	8	.09	.09
F	Astragalus coltoni	_b 16	_c 37	a a	7	21	-	.25	-
F	Astragalus tenellus	_a 27	_b 56	_c 83	13	29	38	1.34	1.34

T	Species	Nested	Freque	ncy	Quadra	t Freque	ency	Avei	
y p e		'88	'94	'99	'88	'94	'99	Cove 194	er % 199
F	Aster spp.	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	.03
F	Astragalus spp.	a ⁻	a ⁻	_b 22	-	-	12	-	.21
F	Castilleja flava	_b 34	_a 19	_a 18	18	9	13	.12	.24
F	Calochortus nuttallii	1	1	ı	1	1	-	.00	-
F	Chaenactis douglasii	26	10	28	12	4	13	.07	.11
F	Comandra pallida	a ⁻	_{ab} 5	_b 7	-	2	4	.01	.05
F	Erigeron spp.	4	4	5	2	4	3	.02	.04
F	Eriogonum umbellatum	-	1	1	-	1	1	.00	.03
F	Holosteum umbellatum (a)	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	.00
F	Hymenoxys richardsonii	_b 47	_c 66	_a 20	27	34	12	.50	.16
F	Lygodesmia spp.	a ⁻	a-	_b 12	-	-	6	-	.06
F	Machaeranthera canescens	7	7	4	3	3	2	.04	.03
F	Penstemon spp.	_a 1	ь7	a ⁻	1	6	-	.08	-
F	Penstemon watsonii	_b 92	_a 41	_b 81	47	20	39	.28	.91
F	Phlox longifolia	ь67	_a 29	_a 30	30	15	16	.07	.08
F	Senecio multilobatus	20	10	12	10	5	7	.05	.06
F	Taraxacum officinale	_a 4	a ⁻	_b 16	2	-	9	-	.04
To	otal for Annual Forbs	0	1	3	0	1	2	0.00	0.00
To	otal for Perennial Forbs	469	367	421	225	186	213	3.64	4.66
Т	otal for Forbs	469	368	424	225	187	215	3.64	4.67

Values with different subscript letters are significantly different at % = 0.10

BROWSE TRENDS --

Herd unit 16B, Study no: 15

T y p e	Species	Str Frequ 194	ip iency (99	Average Cover % 194 199			
В	Amelanchier utahensis	7	6	.18	-		
В	Artemisia frigida	1	0	.03	-		
В	Artemisia tridentata vaseyana	98	96	14.56	12.23		
В	Chrysothamnus depressus	1	1	-	-		
В	Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus viscidiflorus	92	82	4.85	2.97		
В	Mahonia repens	5	1	.45	.03		
В	Opuntia spp.	1	1	.00	.00		
В	Symphoricarpos oreophilus	57	50	3.65	3.26		
В	Tetradymia canescens	0	2	.15	.00		
Т	otal for Browse	262	239	23.88	18.51		

28

BASIC COVER --

Herd unit 16B, Study no: 15

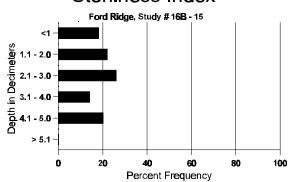
Cover Type	Nes Frequ		Average Cover %				
	0 94	1 99	'88	'94	'99		
Vegetation	335	329	9.25	39.45	31.47		
Rock	248	190	8.50	9.01	5.87		
Pavement	252	254	11.25	.82	4.77		
Litter	396	374	48.75	39.74	30.96		
Cryptogams	9	25	0	.16	.29		
Bare Ground	333	314	22.25	30.53	30.12		

SOIL ANALYSIS DATA --

Herd Unit 16B, Study # 15, Study Name: Ford Ridge

Effective rooting depth (inches)	Temp °F (depth)	pН	%sand	%silt	%clay	%0M	PPM P	РРМ К	dS/m
15.2	46.0 (16.2)	7.4	26.4	31.1	42.6	3.9	10.2	201.6	1.2

Stoniness Index



PELLET GROUP DATA --

Herd unit 16B, Study no: 15

Туре	Qua Frequ 194	drat iency 19 9
Rabbit	14	2
Elk	4	-
Cattle	1	2
Deer	0	0
Sheep	0	0

Pellet Transect Days Use/Acre (ha)
n/a
1 (2)
15 (37)
1 (2)
2 (5)

BROWSE CHARACTERISTICS --

Herd unit 16B, Study no: 15

ΔΙΝ				no: 15						1	***							
		Form Cl	ass (N	lo. of F	lants)						Vigor C	lass			Plants	Average		Total
G I E	Κ.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	0	1	2	2	4	Per Acre	(inches) Ht. Cr.		
		1	2		4	3	6	7	0	9	1	2	3	4		пі. Сг.		
Am	elar	nchier uta	ahensi	.S														
Y 8	38	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	2	-	466			7
	94	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20			1
9	99	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	20			1
Μ8	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
	94	8	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	220	17	26	11
Ģ	99	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	40	21	21	2
D 8	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
Ģ	99	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	120			6
% I	Plant	ts Showi	ng	Mo	derate	Use	Hea	avy Us	<u>e</u>	Po	or Vigor	i				%Change	2	
		'88	_	009	6		439	%		29	1%					48%		
		'94		179	/ _		009	/_		00	10/					2501		
															-	-25%		
		'99		33%			229			44					•	-25%		
Tot	al D	'99	re (ev	339	%	1 & SA	229	%					'88					Ω%
Tot	al P		re (ex	339	%	l & Se	229	%					'88 '94		466	Dec:	:	0% 0%
Tot	al P	'99	re (ex	339	%	l & Se	229	%					'94		466 240		:	0%
		'99 lants/Ac		339	%	l & Se	229	%							466		:	
Art	emis	'99		339	%	l & Se	229	%		44	%		'94		466 240 180	Dec	:	0% 67%
Art M 8	emis	'99 lants/Aci sia frigid -		339	%	1 & Se	229	%	-	-	-	-	'94		466 240 180	Dec:		0% 67%
Art	emis	'99 lants/Ac		339	%	1 & Se	229	%	- -	- - -	%	-	'94	- -	466 240 180 0 20	Dec	- 6	0% 67% 0 1
Art M 8	emis 38 94 99	'99 rlants/Acr sia frigid - 1 -	a - -	339 cluding	% g Deac - - -	- - - -	229 edling	- - -	- - -	- - -	- 1 -	- - -	'94		466 240 180 0 20 0	Dec:	- 6 -	0% 67%
Art M 8	emis 38 94 99	'99 llants/Acr	a - -	339 cluding Mo	g Dead	- - - -	229 edling Hea	- - - - avy Us	- - - - <u>e</u>	- - - - Po	- 1 - oor Vigor		'94	- -	466 240 180 0 20 0	Dec:	- 6 -	0% 67% 0 1
Art M 8	emis 38 94 99	'99 llants/Acr	a - -	339 cluding Mo 009	% Dead	- - - -	229 edling 009	- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	- - - -	- - - - - - 00	- 1 - oor Vigor 1%	- - - -	'94	- -	466 240 180 0 20 0	Dec:	- 6 -	0% 67% 0 1
Art M 8	emis 38 94 99	'99 llants/Acr	a - -	339 cluding Mo 009 009	G Deace derate	- - - -	229 edling 009 009	- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	- - - - <u>e</u>	- - - - - - 00 00	- 1 - oor Vigor 9%	- - - -	'94	- -	466 240 180 0 20 0	Dec:	- 6 -	0% 67% 0 1
Art M 8	emis 38 94 99	'99 llants/Acr	a - -	339 cluding Mo 009	G Deace derate	- - - -	229 edling 009	- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	- - - -	- - - - - - 00	- 1 - oor Vigor 9%		'94	- -	466 240 180 0 20 0	Dec:	- 6 -	0% 67% 0 1
Art M 8 9 9 % I	emis 38 94 99 Plant	'99 llants/Acr	a - - - ng	339 cluding 009 009	g Dead	- - - - Use	229 edling 009 009	- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	- - - -	- - - - - - 00 00	- 1 - oor Vigor 9%	- - - -	'94 '99 - - -	- - -	466 240 180 0 20 0	Dec:	6 -	0% 67% 0 1
Art M 8 9 9 % I	emis 38 94 99 Plant	'99 llants/Acr	a - - - ng	339 cluding 009 009	g Dead	- - - - Use	229 edling 009 009	- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	- - - -	- - - - - - 00 00	- 1 - oor Vigor 9%		'94	- - -	466 240 180 0 20 0	Dec:	6 -	0% 67% 0 1

A		Form C	lass (N	o. of P	lants)						Vigor Cl	ass			Plants	Average	Total
G E	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	Per Acre	(inches) Ht. Cr.	
A	rtemi	isia tride	ntata v	aseyan	a												
S	88	123	-	=.	8	=.	-	32	-	-	158	-	5	-	10866		163
	94	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	80		4
	99	8	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	200		10
Y	88	132	6	-	8	-	-	1	-	-	111	4	32	-	9800		147
	94 99	66 38	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66 41	-	-	-	1320 820		66 41
			4	2						_						1.4 1.0	+
M	88 94	10 449	4	2	-	-	_	-	-	-	8 448	1 1	7	-	1066 8980	14 19 10 19	
	99	353	93	3	_	2	-	-	-	-	451	-	-	-	9020	12 24	
D	88	2	_	1	_	_	_	_	_	-	1	-	2	-	200		3
	94	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	7	200		10
	99	69	8	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	47	1600		80
X	88	ı	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0		0
	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60		3
_	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180		9
%	Plar	ts Show '88'		<u>Mod</u>	derate	Use	<u>Hea</u>	avy Us	<u>se</u>		or Vigor					<u>%Change</u> - 5%	
		00 '94		.199			00%				5% L%					- 3% + 8%	
		'99		19%			.52				3%					1 070	
_			,										10.0		110	_	201
Т	otal F	Plants/Ac	cre (exc	cluding	g Dead	l & Se	edling	(s)					'88 '94		11066 10500		2% 2%
													'90		11440		14%
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\vdash	88	_	- acpre					_		_		_	_	_	0		. 0
IV	94	1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	1	_	_	_	20	3 12	
	99	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20		
%	Plan	ts Show	ing	Mod	derate	Use	Hea	avy Us	se_	Po	oor Vigor					%Change	-
		'88		00%			009)%						
		'94		00%			009)%				-	+ 0%	
		'99	,	00%	Ó		009	%		00)%						
Т	otal F	Plants/Ac	ere (exc	cluding	Dead	l & Se	edling	(s)					'88	3	0	Dec:	-
			`	2			2						'94		20		-
													'99)	20		-

A	Y	Form Cla	ass (N	o. of P	lants)						Vigor Cl	ass			Plants	Average		Total
	R		(/						8				Per Acre	(inches)		
E		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4		Ht. Cr.		
C	hrysc	thamnus	viscid	iflorus	viscid	liflorus	S											
S	88	8	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	10	-	-	-	666			10
	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
Y	88	48	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	-	1	-	3466			52
	94 99	10 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 10	-	-	-	200 200			10 10
_	-			-	-	-	-			-			-	_			_	
M	88 94	73 360	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	80 360	-	-	-	5333 7200	7 7	9 11	80 360
	9 4 99	234	-	-	2	-	-	_	-	-	236	_	-	-	4720	8	11	236
D	88	18	_							_	18	_	_	_	1200			18
	94	6	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	6	_	_	_	120			6
	99	34	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	25	780			39
X	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20			1
%	Plan	ts Showi	ng		<u>derate</u>	Use		vy Us	<u>se</u>		or Vigor					%Change		
		'88 '94		06% 00%			00%			.60	6% 10%					25% -24%		
		'99		00%			00%			09					•	-2 4 70		
T	otal F	Plants/Acı	re (exc	luding	Dead	& Sec	edling	s)					'88'		9999	Dec:		12%
													'94 '99'		7520 5700			2% 14%
_	. 1	•											23	,	3700			1470
_		ia repens													0			
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Μ		_								_	_				0	-	_	0
141	94	92	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	92	_	_	_	1840	4	5	92
	99	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	60		5	3
%	Plar	ts Showi	ng	Mod	derate	Use	Hea	ıvy Us	se_	Po	or Vigor					%Change		
		'88		00%			00%			00								
		'94		00%			00%			00						-97%		
		'99		00%	Ď		00%	Ó		00)%							
T_{i}	otal F	Plants/Acı	e (exc	luding	Dead	& Sec	edling	s)					'88'	3	0	Dec:		_
					,		0	,					' 94	1	1920			-
													'99)	60			-

A G	Y R	Form Cl	ass (N	o. of P	lants)						Vigor Cla	ass			Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)	Total
Ē		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4		Ht. Cr.	
Oı	punt	ia spp.															
S	88	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	133		2
	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		0
Н	99	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	-		_	0		0
Y	88 94	4 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 1	-	-	-	266 20		4
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	99	14	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	3	-	360		18
M	88	14	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	-	11	-	1466		18 22
	94	98	11	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	113	-	-	-	2260		25 113
_	99	57	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	61	-	2	-	1260		26 63
D	88 94	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 -	-	4	-	333 0		5 0
	99	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	5	160		8
%	Plar	nts Showi	ng	Mo	derate	Use	Hea	ıvy Us	se e	Po	oor Vigor					%Change	
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A		For	n Cla	ss (N	o. of P	lants)						Vigor C	lass			Plants	Average		Total
G E	R		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	Per Acre	(inches) Ht. Cr.		
Те	etrad	ymia	cane	scens															
M	88		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	66	11	15	1
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	94		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
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То	otal F	Plants	s/Acre	e (exc	luding	Dead	l & Se	edling	s)					'88		66	Dec:		0%
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